



USAID-COMPETE PARTNER FUNDING SUPPORT TO EAGC

MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2011

A. INTRODUCTION

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of November 2012 covering the activities implemented under USAID-COMPETE funding support. The Grant is aimed at strengthening institutional coordination and regional structured grain trading system through integrated regional market information systems, policy and reduced barriers to trade.

The objectives of the entire Grant are as follows:

1. To facilitate institutional strengthening to enable EAGC to deliver services to its stakeholders across the region with a particular emphasis on strengthening the capacity of satellite offices in Uganda and Tanzania.
2. To formalize regional agricultural markets and structured trade systems in the Eastern and Southern Africa region through training of trainers in harmonized grains standards, rules of trade (tariffs, simplified certificate of origin (SCO), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS), WRS/Commodities Exchanges and dispute resolution.
3. To expand RATIN into a truly regional market information platform that integrates national MIS providers and provides timely and accurate data and analysis to all value chain participants and is the region's preferred source of market information.
4. To hold a successful Grain Trade Summit in Uganda in October 2011 to discuss the systems required to formalize, strengthen and integrate the regional staple foods value chain, increase stakeholder participation in structured trading systems and promote regional trade and food security.
5. To organize Agribusiness Fairs in Kenya and Tanzania to bring small-scale farmers and FBOs together with leading regional traders and processors to build linkages across the value chain.
6. To engage directly with national governments in the EAC to ensure full adoption and institutionalization of the EAC's harmonized grains standards.

The following activities were implemented in the referred period:

1. Development of Membership Engagement Strategy
2. Membership Recruitment
3. Development of EAGC stakeholder engagement and membership development strategy.
4. EAGC participation at the EAC Standards Harmonization Workshop
5. Hosting of the 3rd STS Stakeholders Workshop in Tanzania
6. Maintenance of Regional Food Balance Sheet

B. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

a) Membership Engagement Strategy

EAGC began an initiative to develop the EAGC Membership Engagement Strategy. The membership development strategy is expected help EAGC improve its effectiveness on membership engagement from year to year and assure the maximum impact for recruitment drives. The council started working on this through support from, Ms Joan Perrin, a short-consultant from USAID COMP ETE. To start with, Ms Perrin met 4 EAGC members.

b) Membership Recruitment

Through the funding from USAID-COMPETE, the EAGC offices in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya were operational. EAGC intensified its membership recruitment drive. EAGC recruited 3 new members in November 2012 namely:

- (i) Center for Sustainable Development Initiative (CSDI)-Tanzania
- (ii) Vestergaard Frandsen-Kenya
- (iii) Post-Harvest Services Ltd-Kenya

C. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

a) Structured Trading Systems (STS)

EAGC participation at EAC Standards Harmonization Workshop in Entebbe, Uganda

Following the finalization of EAC standards harmonization process during a Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on 30th and 31st October 2012, EAGC participated in the East Africa Standards Committee workshop on 1st and 2nd November 2012 in Entebbe, Uganda. During this meeting, the 18 standards for staple foods were recommended for gazettment by Sectoral Council of Ministers. In the TWG meeting, EAGC presented a paper on the recommended Moisture Content levels for Grains, a paper that unlocked the earlier contested moisture levels.

EAGC and COMPETE is expected to kick-start the public-awareness campaigns on the standards are enacted and adopted as EAC standards. EAGC will play a big role in ensuring the implementation of standards at the grass root level. To support the implementation of the harmonized standards, EAGC will identify and work with national implementing partners with significant grassroots reach. It will train at least 90 private-sector graders representing producers, traders and processors.

Hosting of the 3rd STS Stakeholders Workshop in Tanzania

EAGC and FAO-Southern Highlands Food Systems (SHFS) hosted the 3rd STS stakeholders' workshop. The workshop brought several stakeholders including members of the four working groups on Farmers Mobilization and Capacity Building, Policy advocacy, Commodity Exchange and Warehouse Receipt Systems formed last year to support the formation of an efficient and functional WRS with common WRS approaches and harmonized rules and protocols with envisaged the establishment of a Commodity Exchange in Tanzania. The aim of the workshop was to collate all the resolutions made by the four working groups into one instrument and agree on the way forward.

It was noted that the working groups have been conducting meetings in order to come up with resolutions that address to the following issues:

- a) Strengthening of the capacity of regulatory body, warehouse operators and inspectors to operationalize WRS.
- b) Promotion of policy advocacy dialogue with government in order to lobby the government on taxation on equipment, existing laws such as Commodity & other Produce Act, review and amendment of WRS Act, lifting of export ban e.t.c
- c) Strengthening of the capacity of farmers' organizations through trainings and awareness campaigns is required and the marketing and the Cooperative Act needs to be looked at in detail and amended to streamline grain marketing.
- d) Develop a road map for establishment of a suitable Commodity Exchange that reflect the realities in Tanzania.

All working groups developed work plan for 2013. However they lack resources to hold regular meetings.

b) Market Information Systems

Maintenance of Regional Food Balance Sheet

To keep up the process of building the Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS, EAGC continued to identify and register new private sector data contributors in the 5 EAC partner states. Follow ups were made during the month to ensure that there was data contribution and data uploading. The status of private sector engaged in RBFS is as shown below:

Uganda Contributors

1) Export trading	2) Opit Investments Millers
3) Sun Rise commodities	4) HARREE Millers Uganda Lt
5) Upland Rice Millers	6) Akhcom U ltd

7) Masindi Seed growers Ltd	8) NUVITA Jinja
9) Aponye U Kyazanga	10) 3R Agro Industries U Ltd
11) Mubuku Farmers' stores	12) Namutumba District Farmers' Association
13) Bunambutye ACE	14) Buyimabulaire Millers
15) UN-WFP Gulu	16) Katuntu general enterprise
17) West Acholi cooperative Union	18) Kentucky Uganda Ltd

Tanzania Contributors

1. S.S Bhakresa	2. KIBAIGWA MARKET
3. Mohammed Enterprises	4. CHAWANAKO
5. Export Trading	6. Pembe Millers
7. Energy Millers	8. Union Service Stores
9. Coast Millers	10. New Bugaloo
11. MVIWATA	12. NAFKA project
13. A to Z.	14.

Rwanda Contributors

15. Imbaraga Rwanda Farmer Federation	16. Sosoma Industry Ltd
17. SOPAV LTD	18. BAIR
19. ARDI	20. ROAM
21. ENAS	22. MINAGRI PHHS
23. RDO	24. RGCC
25. WFP	

Kenya Contributors

1. Pembe flour Mills	2. UNGA LTD
3. Export Trading Group Kenya	4. Unga Group LTD
5. Cargill kenya limited	6. Mombasa Maize Millers LTD
7. United Millers LTD	8. Cargill Kenya LTD
9. Mama Millers LTD	10. Capital Reef LTD
11. pembe flour mills	12. Loius Drefyus Commodities
13. kabansora millers ltd	

Expanding RATIN

In Uganda, EAGC made several consultations with different SMS media houses in Uganda including SMS-One, SMS-Empire, SM- Media and FIT Uganda. This was to find the most reliable and efficient way of linking the existing SMS platforms with RATIN SMS. Currently EAGC Uganda is developing a test account and link.

c) Grain Value Chain Stakeholder Capacity Built

Preparations for training of warehouse operators and graders

EAGC will be conducting the training of warehouse operators and graders in Uganda and Tanzania in January and February 2013 respectively. The preparations for the training commenced with

developing the communication materials that prompt the registration of trainees. It's anticipated that at least 60 participants will be trained in Uganda and Tanzania.

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EAGC MANAGEMENT